GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2402
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2007
COMMITTEE ON CATERING SERVICE
Prasad Shri Hari Kewal;Thummar Shri Virjibhai

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi High Court was informed by the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation that they have considerably improved the condition of their kitchens following the Court's direction;

(b) if so, whether the High Court has already formed a Committee and has urged them to continue their checks on the railway kitchens and file their report soon;

(c) if so, the extent to which Railways have improved the quality of food being supplied in trains;

(d) whether the Court has already considered their report;

(e) if so, whether the Court has also directed the Ministry of Railways and the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation to provide address of the private contractors running pantry cars and kitchens where food is cooked for train passengers to the 4 Member Committee appointed by it; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Railways thereto ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Yes, Sir.

(c) & (d): Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has taken numerous steps to improve the quality of catering services provided in trains. IRCTC has initiated the process of modernizing the departmental base kitchens at New Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata.

It is proposed to have state-of-the-art equipments and professional manpower for the base kitchens. The licensees have also been directed to upgrade their base kitchens and to obtain International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) certifications. In the existing base kitchens also, continuous efforts are being made to ensure that the food is prepared under clean and hygienic conditions with standard raw materials. The Hon'ble High Court has considered the report submitted by the Committee and appreciated the efforts made by IRCTC to improve the overall quality of catering services.

(e) & (f): In pursuance of the direction of the Hon'ble High Court, IRCTC has provided the addresses of the base kitchens in Delhi area to the Committee nominated by it for conducting inspections of these base kitchens.